

SUBJECT: TRANSLATION FROM "DZIMTINES BALSS" (# AND DATE UNKNOWN)
TITLE: TWENTY DAYS IN AMERICA.

11 Feb 1962

TO: [] []
FROM: [] []

Dzidra KARAMISHEVA and Valdis MUIZNIEKS tell about their ^{about} ^{from which}
Toward the end of last year ~~some~~ a tournament in USA returned to the ^{from which} ^{from which}
Women's ~~XXXX~~ basketball teams. Among them were Russians, Ukrainians, Gruzians, Estonians,
Lithuanians and five Latvians - Dzidra KARAMISHEVA, Skaidrite SMILGINA, Valdis
MUIZNIEKS, Juris KAININS and Alvis GULBIS. Our correspondent ^{T. VAIVARS} interviewed Dzidra
KARAMISHEVA and Valdis MUIZNIEKS and they had this to say.

We hail the American public.

First we have to underline the cooperation and friendship ^{which} ~~that~~ we experienced
during our stay in US. Every city we visited, we were greeted heartily and friendly.
We felt clearly that the average ^{what was} American as well as we went to live in a
and friendship and this was shown to us by their friendly smiles, their strong
hand shakes and said in our private conversations.

Our greatest [^] respect was toward the American public, which was our [^] [^]
basketball "dearths" and equally applauded the Americans and us. After
the President of the International Basketball Federation named Riga as the
Capitol of European Basketball, we feel that the American basketball public
is as objective ~~XXXX~~ as the people in Riga.

In Washington we had the following characteristic event: ^{On} ~~some~~ the US men's team
we had a very "energetic" player - at every chance when he was out of referee's
sight, he punched us with perfect boxing punches. Naturally the public saw that
and after the game was over we were encircled by the public and they
said: "I am ashamed that we had such a player."

After all we heard displeasure about their team and wish a brilliant
victory on expression of disgrace for their own team and

After all we heard all the countries we had

Although we did not ^{have enough} ~~have~~ time to spend in each City we visited, the American sports organizers have made it possible for us to ~~XXXX~~ see places and meet Latvians who came to the country for various of reasons. Several Latvians met us in airports ^{or enough} ~~XXXX~~ an opportunity to meet us. We tried to fulfill this understandable desire as much as it was possible in our leisure time between trainings. There were many notes sent to us during the games. Sometimes there were just ^a few words: "Girls, say hallo to Latvia". Every Latvian in America wants to see Latvia and have a stroll through Riga's streets. Many said that they are saving money for a trip to Latvia, many said that after many years lived in the US they could not get used to it. Some youngsters who have not seen Latvia at all, regards Latvia as their fatherland. Gone ^{some of} ~~are~~ the prejudices encountered during our previous visits and people seem to be better informed about the events in Latvia today. In New York one Latvian said: "There is nothing to wonder about, because many of us receive the Soviet Latvian newspapers and publications. We are not obliged to listen to all kind of stories and legends and rumours."

GUNARS MEIEROVIVS does not have money.

WASHINGTON

In the Hotel in New York (? transl.) after our arrival there, two Latvians arrived to see us - they had some kind of a meeting downstairs and during a break they used the time to look us up and talk with their countryman. They were interested mostly in politics; they asked us all kind of questions ~~XXXXXX~~ as if they had not read the newspapers and looked like they had come from other cities.

We invited them to visit Latvia so they could see and hear with their own eyes and ears. One in ^(FRIVAGOS) black rimmed glasses said - "We would like to, but it costs money and we do not have so much." And this was the end of our conversation.

Later another Latvian made a phone call to us and said to be a newspaper correspondent and asked for an interview. We also said to him that we just had a ^{representative} ~~XXXXXX~~ from somekind of an organization

"Oh, that must be Gunars Meierovics, the son of the First prime minister. Did not you recognize him?", asked the reporter. If we would of known him, how could we help him. If he does not have enough money, let him look for a better ~~work~~ job, or live more sparingly.

THE LAST MOHICAN IN LUBBOCK

Welcome to our city. In the airport at Lubbock we were greeted by a man. I am the only Latvian here ^{of my fellow countrymen} ~~with some Latvians~~. After several hours when we were already checked into our hotel, the doors opened and another man walked in. I am the only Latvian in Lubbock.....

"We were greeted by the only Latvian here in Lubbock at the airport."

A traitor's redness appeared on his face and our discussions did not come to an end. He would come another time and apologized for his intrusion but there was no another time. Maybe he felt bad for his non success. Maybe he was ashamed about his presence which he obviously planned to give us. Later we received at the hotel desk ^{some gossels} ~~with some gossels~~ and some kind of newspapers. Let it be ^{gossels} ~~with the gossels~~ as it is, but the newspapers as usual were full of slang against the Soviet Union, all kinds of lies, -- by reading those papers it could become obvious. But this was a strange move. If he came why didn't he plan to say what he planned to say.

WHY MR. LAIPENIEKS DISAPPEARED

In the Denver airport the Soviet basketball team was greeted by ~~one~~ ^{one} LAIPENIEKS. He said that at ~~the~~ time he was a trainer of the Chilean field and track team. Now he has come to the USA ~~and will be here for the rest of his life~~ to live permanently. He said that he was well off. His son is a big man and will be a famous sportsman. LAIPENIEKS came to see us several times. He was very talkative and also tried to be friendly, but then all of a sudden he disappeared as if he had fallen into water. ~~Disappeared~~

Our team member Juris KALVINS received a letter: "In the evening across from the hotel would stay^{ed} a red car and Juris should step into it. This car would take him to ~~the~~ airport and ~~after~~ a plane would take him to another city. He will stay in the USA." You should have seen how mad Juris was. Now you can see what they ~~see~~ think of Juris -- a bum -- who is ready for doll~~ars~~ to deny his fatherland, his~~home~~, his relatives and his friends. Who could be this dishonorable man? Maybe we should ask Mr. Laipenicks, but Mr. Laipenicks had disappeared.

HOME AGAIN

This tournament frankly speaking was tiring. At the end of it we were real tired. Although during those few spare hours we had, we tried to observe more what could be observed. In any case we are very satisfied. Satisfied with the results. Also satisfied with those moments we spent with the Americans. and our people in foreign countries. We hope that with several of them we have the opportunity to meet with them in our country. About the event in Denver, gentlemen, don't spit against the wind.

Now we have to get ready for the world's championship in basketball and for the III Spartakid in the USSR, where the competition is real heavy because the level of EB in all republics has risen.

Red from PLESNERS 11 Feb 62 from Stockholm. Date & No. unknown.